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THE UNDERTAKER AND HIS BUSINESS

By T. F. Lenhart, Undertaker
Mansfield, Missouri

Among those who have given the matter any thought it goes without saying that he who puts away the dead should be well paid for his service. And if his duties are extended, as of late years they generally are, to the embalming of the body, the reason is many times multiplied for his liberal and complete remuneration.

Diseases are numerous and varied in form of attack and effect, but all eventuate the same end, death. Some are infectious, others contagious, and others neither infectious nor contagious but, whatever its nature or character, when death results the body is dangerous to the living, and the greatest of care must be used in its handling to avoid the fatal result of blood poison. The embalmer takes far greater risk than many, even of the profession, believe. Having the corpse to prepare for the operation, for such it is, the washing and drying of the body prepares the operator, perfects his condition, so to speak, for the reception of disease and poison.

Again, the familiarity of the undertaker, especially of the embalmer, with dead bodies begets carelessness in the most prudent of men, and they are exposed to dangers of their own making far beyond what they should be, but which is inevitable. And the danger is not confined to them alone but is carried to their families—their wives and children, and the death of some loved one from such cause is far too frequent.

Undertaking as a business is not preferred by many. It is a matter of frequent remark among people that the undertaker is generally the sole beneficiary of the estate of the deceased, but not one in one hundred of those people so flippant of speech would for twice or thrice the sum charged by the undertaker do what he did and would excuse themselves by saying they were not engaged in that business. True, they are not, but why not? There is a strong reason or reasons for their being engaged in another business, perhaps not half so profitable, in their judgment, as undertaking, and what are the reasons? The dread and fear of death. There is something in man that causes him to fear his friend's dead body. When the heart ceases and the soul of our friend leaves his dead body, broadly speaking, our friendship ceases and we dread, dislike to touch his body. We would, away and at a distance, pay our respects to his remains. There are possible exceptions to this rule, but they are not many, and those few are not undertakers and never could become such.

The corpse is not the man who breathed and lived and mingled with his fellows, but the undertaker who could or would handle it otherwise than gently, feeling as though the life that had flown was observing, is either devoid of appreciation of suffering, which I do not admit, or forces himself against his inclination. It is therefore a sacrifice of both feeling and security the undertaker and especially the embalmer makes when he enters the profession. His life lies among roses, it may be said, furnished by the friends of the deceased, and his family, but it lies more among the sobs and tears of the bereaved, and the nerves of the average undertaker are strained from the time he is called until the mound is fashioned over the grave and the tension is not fully relaxed until he has slept.

The undertaker's capital is not alone the dollars and cents he has invested in caskets, hearse, embalming fluid, tools and instruments, but his safety, peace and sympathy are involved and make altogether the largest part

of his contribution.

I know that the opinion is shared by a large part of the public that because the undertaker does not pale nor weep and composedly goes about his duty of directing the funeral that he does not feel, but this is a mistake. To orderly direct he is compelled to control his feelings and appear at least composed, but the fire is lighted and burning within him, and would by and by consume him if he had no respite for it.

I am a young man and my experience is limited, compared with that of other men in the profession, but while I have written of myself and a few others whom I have learned to know and made a record of the result of our personal experiences, I believe I have expressed in a degree what every member of the profession has felt and will admit. It follows, therefore, that the man who sacrifices his safety and happiness and endures the nervous strain put upon him by that sacrifice and the tears and wails of the broken-hearted relatives and friends of the deceased should be well and ungrudgingly paid for his service.

There is given the undertaker an opportunity of doing good in a large measure if he utilizes it rightly: Thoughtfulness of the family, shielding them from the curiosity-seeker and from all unpleasantness; delicacy and tenderness in caring for the remains. The director of the funeral should find out the wishes of the responsible head of the family, and see to it that they are not interrupted or changed by any one else. An undertaker cannot find a better rule to go by than the following: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you do ye even so unto them." If followed out it will enable him to make a place for himself in the hearts of those he serves.

To my thought the undertaker has open to him a field rich in the possibilities of the ministry of helpfulness. It is your hands that are permitted to touch the body made most dear to the family; it is to your thoughtful care that the numerous details of the funeral are committed. The manner in which these tasks are performed will determine whether you are a minister of helpfulness or a disagreeable personage whose presence must necessarily be endured.

There are some services the undertaker renders which have no money value, and the one incapable or unwilling to give such service is unfit to do the other part for which he has a right to receive money compensation.

The proof to your community that you furnish even more than you have promised, that you are as reliable tomorrow as you are today in your transactions establishes beyond all and any opportunity for criticism the fact that your chosen vocation is rightly chosen and that you most ably represent the profession of your choice, and that your professional ability is absolutely your only method by which you attain your success.

Service is only another method of spelling success.

Stockholder's Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Mansfield Light and Power company, Mansfield, Mo., will be held at the office of the company on August 1, 1913, at 9 a. m., for the purpose of electing three directors; one for three years, one for two years and one for one year, and for such other other business as may come before the meeting.

F. B. FUSON, Pres.
W. C. CODY, Sec.
July 15, 1913.

NOTICE

All persons are forbidden to pick Blackberries, without permission, on the farm of J. M. Thirkield—Adv.

Rid Your Children of Worms.

You can change fretful, ill-tempered children into healthy, happy youngsters by ridding them of worms. Tossing, rolling, grinding of teeth, crying out while asleep, accompanied with intense thirst, pains in the stomach and bowels, feverishness and bad breath, are symptoms that indicate worms. Kickapoo Worm Killer, a pleasant candy lozenge, expels the worms, regulates the bowels, restores your children to health and happiness. Mrs. J. A. Brisbin, of Elgin, Ill., says: "I have used Kickapoo Worm Killer for years, and entirely rid my children of worms. I would not be without it." Guaranteed. All druggists, or by mail. Price 25c. Kickapoo Indian Medicine Co. Philadelphia and St. Louis. Your druggist.—Adv.

O'Brien Repudiates Confession

Hartville, Mo., July 17.—A mythical story devised to get under the limelight was unfolded by John Sullivan, alias John O'Brien, who is in jail here, recently when Sullivan declared he was guilty of robbing the Mansfield bank. Mr. Sullivan, in the county jail here, now avers that it was a pipe.

Sullivan was serving a 90 day sentence in the jail at Bloomington, Ill., when he was accused of having robbed the Bank of Mansfield. A fertile imagination is the explanation offered by the prisoner now as the basis for his alleged confession to having done the bank "job." He has procured an alibi from the Bloomington, Ill., sheriff, and desires to be released from the Wright county jail.—Springfield Republican

Surprising Cure of Stomach Trouble.

When you have trouble with your stomach or chronic constipation, don't imagine that your case is beyond help just because your doctor fails to give you relief. Mrs. G. Stengele, Plainfield, N. J., writes: "For over a month past I have been troubled with my stomach. Everything I ate upset it terribly. One of Chamberlain's advertising booklets came to me. After reading a few of the letters from people who had been cured by Chamberlain's Tablets, I decided to try them. I have taken nearly three-fourths of a package of them and can now eat almost everything that I want." For sale by all dealers.—Adv.

To Chat the Streets

Dr. F. H. Riley has been circulating a paper for 50 persons to donate \$1 a month for 4 months for putting chat on the streets on the four sides of the square. Considerable good work has been done on these streets and the chat is a necessary addition, or the streets will be worse than before. Before leaving for Hartsville the doctor said he had 39 signatures, leaving 11 to be secured. Anyone wishing to sign please call at the Mirror office. As soon as 50 sign work begins. We understand no more soliciting is to be done, and the work will not be started until 50 sign. If you favor putting the finishing touches on the splendid work done, sign the paper. Who will the 11 be?

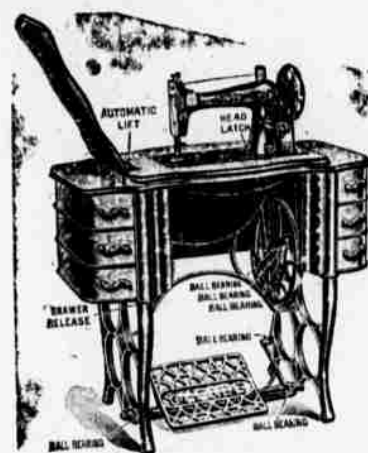
The Best Medicine in the World.

"My little girl had bloody dysentery very bad. I thought she would die. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy cured her and I can truthfully say that I think it is the best medicine in the world," writes Mrs. William Orvis, Clare, Mich. For sale by all dealers.—Adv.

FAIR CIRCUIT ARRANGED.

Cahoon—Sept. 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.
Mansfield—Sept. 24, 25, 26, 27.
Ava—October 1, 2, 3, 4.
Mountain Grove—Oct. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.
Hartville—Oct. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.

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Attorneys-At-Law
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